

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 12, 14, 16, and 17 along with previously allowed Claim 18 in view of the above amendments and the following arguments.

The Final Office Action indicated that Claim 18 was allowed and Claims 15 through 17 were directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 15 is canceled above and its limitations incorporated in its independent claim, Claim 12. Claim 16 is amended to depend from Claim 12. The Applicants submit that these amendments place Claims 12, 14, 16, and 17 in condition for allowance along with Claim 18.

If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims, or that a further conference might expedite allowance of the claims, he is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

SHAFFER & CULBERTSON, L.L.P.

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (Fax No. 703-872-9306) on December 2, 2003

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